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NEWTON-LE-WILLOWS
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT
1972

J. M. V. PACKER (Medical Officer of Health)
C. L. GARSIDE (Chief Public Health Inspector)

NEWTON-LE-WILLOWS

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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J. M. V. PACKER - MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

C. L. GARSIDE - CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

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MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH AND WATER COMMITTEE

Chairman:

COUNCILLOR MRS. E. N. KERSHAW, J.P., C.C.

Vice-Chairman:

COUNCILLOR G. ROBERTS

Members:

COUNCILLOR T. CHISNALL

" R. D. COLLINS

" S. M. HOWARTH

" E. KERSHAW, B.A.

" R. H. KNIGHT, J.P.

" J. T. SPEAK

STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health:

J. M. V. PACKER M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

M. J. BOND M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

C. L. GARSIDE M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:

G. A. PILKINGTON M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector:

J. GWATKINS M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I. (from 1/7/72 until 10/11/72)

Pupil Public Health Inspector:

J. GWATKINS (until 30/6/72)

M. GOLDEN B.Sc. (from 11/9/72)

Technical Assistant:

H. GLOVER

Clerk/Typist:

MRS. E. GOLDSACK (until 20/8/72)

MRS. M. MARTINDALE (from 4/9/72)

STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,103 statute acres
Population	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	22,180	Estimated mid-1972
									22,398 Census 1971
Number of Inhabited Houses, Census	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,200	
Number of Inhabited Houses, Estimated 1972	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,600	
Rateable Value	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£789,066	
Sum represented by a penny rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£7,536	

The major portion of the district is truly urban in character, with a relatively small acreage of rural character. It is built up with dwelling houses, with shops, offices, workshops, factories, churches, mission halls, clubs, hotels and all the usual ancillary buildings which serve a civilised community. The main industries are Light and Heavy Engineering including Sugar Refining, Printing and Stationery Manufacture, and Raincoat Manufacture. As would be expected from the urban character of the district, agriculture plays only a very minor role in its activities.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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P R E F A C E

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting for your consideration the Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the Urban District of Newton-le-Willows for the year ended 31st December, 1972 together with the vital statistics for that year.

As this will be the last full Annual Report to be submitted to the Council before its dissolution in the forthcoming reorganisation of local government, I thought it would be of interest to compare the situation today with that which existed in years gone by. The earliest Annual Report which I have been able to trace is the one for 1902 - just seventy years ago - when Dr. Harold Watkins was the Medical Officer of Health and Mr. Henry Ashcroft was the 'Inspector of Nuisances'. The population of the Urban District was estimated to be 17,253. The number of births was 603 (336 in 1972) and the birth rate was 34.9/1000 population (15.1/1000 in 1972). The number of deaths was 252 - exactly the same as in 1972, but the ages at which death occurred show a very different pattern:

	<u>under 1 year</u>	<u>1-4</u>	<u>5-14</u>	<u>15-24</u>	<u>25-64</u>	<u>65 and over</u>
1902	73	34	16	9	72	48
1972	9	1	1	4	61	176

Thus, approximately a half of the total number of deaths in 1902 occurred among children, whereas in 1972 two thirds of the deaths were of people aged 65 and over. The infant mortality rate in 1902 was 121/1000 births (and it had been 163/1000 in 1901) compared with 27/1000 live births in 1972.

Another of the more striking differences is the incidence of infectious diseases. Here is the list for 1902:

	<u>Cases</u>	<u>Deaths</u>
Diphtheria	24)	9
Membranous Croup	7)	-
Erysipelas	16	-
Scarlet Fever	60	3
Enteric Fever	5	1
Puerperal Fever	1	-
Phthisis	17	15
	<u>130</u>	<u>28</u>

Cont/d ..

The Medical Officer appears to have viewed these figures with some satisfaction because he comments, "Diphtheria and Membranous Croup; of 31 cases notified there were only 9 deaths." Clearly he expected the picture to have been worse. He was, however, far from satisfied at the facilities for treating infectious diseases, for he writes;

"At present you have absolutely no provision for 'perfect' isolation of such common and dangerous diseases as Diphtheria and Membranous Croup, or the less common, Smallpox, Cholera, or Plague. Since the present year (1903) began you have erected a tent for the treatment of Smallpox cases, but only as a temporary means."

An isolation hospital was built a few years later, and one assumes that the tent was then disposed of.

Amid much that is very different from present conditions, one occasionally comes across a statement which has a familiar sound, such as this:

"I regret to state that the water courses in your District are without exception more or less polluted. Some are polluted ere they reach your District ..."

Although improvements have been made, not every problem has been eliminated in the intervening years.

I have taken the opportunity to draw your attention to these facts, not solely as a matter of antiquarian interest, but to highlight the improvement in the general health (physical health at least) of the public even during the lifetime of many who are now living. One has to look over a long period to see this, because the changes have mostly come about gradually, and they have been influenced by much patient and sometimes tedious work on the part of those who work in the field of public health. It would, of course, be wrong to attribute the changes entirely to their work; many other factors play a part, not least the rise in the standard of living. The more dramatic advances in curative medicine, such as the introduction of antibiotics, also exert their influence. But the trend to which I am calling attention is one which has been in progress for many years and owes more to the exercise of preventive health measures than is commonly realised and it is in this sphere that the Council's health functions lie.

With regard to the vital statistics, 1972 was characterised by a reduction in both births and deaths. The number of live births was 336, a decrease of 52 from the number recorded in the previous year. The adjusted live birth rate therefore fell from 17.6 to 15.9, a similar trend being recorded nationally as the rate for England and Wales fell from 16.0 in 1971 to 14.8 in 1972. It will be noted that the rate for this District nevertheless remained above the national average. Illegitimate births numbered 39, which is 12% of the total live births - a small increase from the previous year's figure of 35 (9%) and above the national rate of 9%. The infant mortality rate which has been fluctuating during the last few years, rose again to 27 per thousand live births - an increase from the rate of 18 per thousand

recorded in 1971 but the same as the rate for 1970. The actual number of infant deaths was 9, of which 4 occurred in the first four weeks of life. There were 7 stillbirths (8 in 1971). The perinatal mortality rate (still births and deaths under one week of age, per thousand total births) declined from 30 to 26, but was still above the national rate of 22 per thousand.

Although one death of a woman during pregnancy was recorded, the death was not directly attributable to the pregnancy.

The total number of deaths fell to 252, compared with 303 in 1971. The adjusted death rate (used for comparison with other areas) was 12.9 per thousand population. This reduction brings the District's rate to a level comparable to the national rate of 12.1 per thousand. The leading cause of death, as usual, was ischaemic heart disease (coronary disease) which accounted for 82 deaths (45 males and 37 females). These figures are almost identical with last year's. Death from all forms of cancer were substantially less than last year, numbering 47 (26 males and 21 females) of which 12 deaths (10 males and 2 females) were due to lung cancer. Cerebro-vascular lesions (strokes) numbered 24. There were 13 deaths due to pneumonia and 12 due to bronchitis and emphysema.

There were no ^{notable} ~~large~~ outbreaks of infectious diseases during the year. Two hundred and sixty cases of measles were notified, mainly in the first and last quarters of the year

Progress has been made in tackling the problem of substandard housing. Increasingly, owners are taking advantage of the grants now available for the improvement of houses. Unfortunately, there are a considerable number of houses which are incapable of being brought up to standard at a reasonable expense. The work of inspection of these has continued and further properties have been represented to the Council as unfit for habitation. The number of medical certificates received in support of applications for rehousing is testimony to the adverse affect of poor housing on health. It is therefore to be expected that the Council's policy of improving the stock of housing within the District will contribute to the health and well-being of the community.

In conclusion I should like to record my thanks to Mr. Garside and his staff for the help they have readily given at all times. I also wish to express my thanks to members of the Council for the interest they have displayed in matters affecting the health of the public.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

J. M. V. PACKER,
Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE 1

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1972

	<div> <div>Newton-le-Willows</div> </div>			England & Wales
	Males	Females	Total	(Total)
Estimated mid-year home population	-	-	22,180	49,028,900
LIVE BIRTHS:				
Total	172	164	336	725,405
Legitimate	148	149	297	662,907
Illegitimate	24	15	39	62,498
STILLBIRTHS:				
Total	2	5	7	8,794
Legitimate	2	5	7	7,846
Illegitimate	-	-	-	948
TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS:				
Total	174	169	343	734,199
Legitimate	150	154	304	670,753
Illegitimate	24	15	39	63,446
DEATH OF INFANTS:				
<u>Under 1 year of age.</u>				
Total	8	1	9	12,494
Legitimate	8	1	9	11,177
Illegitimate	-	-	-	1,317
<u>Under 4 weeks of age</u>				
Total	3	1	4	8,373
Legitimate	3	1	4	7,503
Illegitimate	-	-	-	870
<u>Under 1 week of age</u>				
Total	1	1	2	7,142
Legitimate	1	1	2	6,365
Illegitimate	-	-	-	777
DEATH - ALL AGES:	142	118	252	591,907

TABLE 1 CONT'D

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1972

	Newton-le-Willows	England & Wales
LIVE BIRTH RATES, etc:		
Live births per 1,000 home population (crude rate)	15.1	14.8
Area comparability factor	1.05	1.00
Local adjusted rate	15.9	14.8
Ratio of local adjusted rate to national rate	1.07	1.00
Illegitimate live births as percentage of all live births	12	9
STILLBIRTH RATE:		
Stillbirths per 1,000 total live and still births	20	12
INFANT MORTALITY RATES:		
Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births	27	17
Deaths of legitimate infants under 1 year per 1,000 legitimate live births	30	17
Deaths of illegitimate infants under 1 year per 1,000 illegitimate live births	-	21
NEONATAL MORTALITY RATE:		
Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births	12	12
EARLY NEONATAL MORTALITY RATE:		
Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births	6	10
PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE:		
Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week, combined, per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	26	22
DEATH RATES, etc. - ALL AGES:		
Deaths per 1,000 home population (crude rate)	11.4	12.1
Area comparability factor	1.13	1.00
Local adjusted rate	12.9	12.1
Ratio of local adjusted rate to national rate.	1.06	1.00

TABLE 2

CAUSES OF DEATH

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, Buccal Cavity etc	1	1
" " Oesophagus	2	-
" " Stomach	3	3
" " Intestine	3	4
" " Lung, Bronchus	10	2
" " Breast	-	4
" " Prostate	1	-
" " Uterus	-	2
Leukaemia	-	1
Other malignant neoplasms	6	4
Benign and unspecified neoplasms	1	-
Diabetes Mellitus	-	1
Other Endocrine etc., diseases	1	-
Meningitis	1	-
Other diseases of nervous system	1	1
Chronic Rheumatic heart disease	3	-
Hypertensive disease	4	3
Ischaemic heart disease	45	37
Other forms of heart disease	7	11
Cerebrovascular disease	13	11
Other diseases of circulatory system	4	2
Pneumonia	8	5
Bronchitis and Emphysema	9	3
Asthma	-	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	3	4
Peptic Ulcer	1	-
Appendicitis	-	1
Intestinal obstruction and hernia	2	-
Other diseases of digestive system	1	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	-
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	-	2
Congenital anomalies	2	1
Birth injury, difficult labour, etc.	1	1
Other causes of perinatal mortality	2	-
Motor vehicle accidents	1	1
All other accidents	1	1
All other external causes	2	1
<u>TOTAL ALL CAUSES</u>	142	110

TABLE 3

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1972

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	Total cases at all ages	AGE PERIODS - YEARS												
		0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	25 and over	Age un- known			
Measles (excluding rubella)	252	18	26	34	37	51	79	6	1	-	-			
Dysentery	Nil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
Scarlet fever	Nil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
Diphtheria	Nil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
Acute Meningitis	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
Acute poliomyelitis paralytic	Nil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
non-paralytic	Nil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
		0-		5-		15-		45-		65 and over	Age un- known			
Acute encephalitis Infective	Nil	-		-		-		-		-	-			
Post-infectious	Nil	-		-		-		-		-	-			
Leptospirosis	Nil	-		-		-		-		-	-			
Paratyphoid fever	Nil	-		-		-		-		-	-			
Typhoid fever	Nil	-		-		-		-		-	-			
Food poisoning	Nil	-		-		-		-		-	-			
		0-	1-	2-	5-	10-	15-	20-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-
Tetanus	Nil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Infective jaundice	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Tuberculosis- Respiratory	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-
Meninges and C.N.S.	Nil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	Nil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping cough	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Smallpox	Nil													
Ophthalmia neonatorum	Nil													
Anthrax	Nil													
Yellow fever	Nil													

PROVISION OF GENERAL HEALTH AND ANCILLARY SERVICES

LABORATORY ARRANGEMENTS

Public Health Laboratory Service and County Analyst's Department

Pathological specimens for bacteriological analysis may be dealt with by the Public Health Laboratory Service at the Public Health Laboratory, Fazakerley Hospital, Liverpool. Samples of food and drugs for analysis are submitted to the County Analyst's Department at Preston.

HOSPITAL SERVICES

(Liverpool Regional Board; Warrington H.M.C.)

The only hospital situated within the boundaries of the Urban District is the Newton-le-Willows Cottage Hospital in Bradlegh Road, which has a limited number of in-patient beds and provides a range of out-patient clinics covering most of the more common specialties. A full range of the services normally to be found in a district general hospital is provided at the Warrington Infirmary and Warrington General Hospital, to which many Newton patients are admitted. The Victoria Park Maternity Home at Latchford, Warrington, accommodates some of the more straightforward maternity cases, thus supplementing the main obstetric unit at the General Hospital. A proportion of medical, surgical and obstetric cases are referred, for various reasons, to hospitals in nearby districts such as St. Helens, Whiston, and Billinge, and some to Liverpool and Manchester.

Patients requiring in-patients treatment for tuberculosis are admitted mainly to Eccleston Hall; out-patient sessions are held by the Chest Physician at Warrington General Hospital.

Facilities for the treatment of psychiatric illnesses are centred on Winwick Hospital, and for mental subnormality, at Newchurch Hospital, Culcheth.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL SERVICES

The family doctor service and the general dental, pharmaceutical and ophthalmic services are the responsibility of the Lancashire Executive Council, 42 West Cliff, Preston.

COUNTY COUNCIL SERVICES

The Lancashire County Council is the Local Health Authority, and the day to day administration of the wide range of services which it provides in this area is in the hands of Divisional Health Committee No. 10.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

All vehicles in the Lancashire County Council ambulance service are under radio control, and all services in the Division are controlled by staff at the area ambulance headquarters at Whiston. Vehicles from other stations can be brought in easily because of the radio contact when necessary.

This service deals with all types of cases where such transport is required by reason of illness (including mental illness or mental subnormality), whether accident, other emergency, general illness or infectious disease. In cases of emergency any person having reason to do so may summon an ambulance, and the emergency service number '999' should be used. In other cases the calls for this service are made either by a doctor, dentist, midwife, nurse or other duly qualified person, who can call Whiston headquarters, telephone number 051-426-5222.

Five stretcher-carrying ambulance vehicles and three "sitting case" cars are stationed at the Ambulance Station, Silverdale Road, Newton-le-Willows and manned by an appropriate staff, all qualified in First Aid.

MIDWIFERY

Whole-time domiciliary midwives are engaged on this work within the Newton-le-Willows District in the employ of the County Council which is both the Local Health Authority and Supervising Authority under the Midwives Act. These nurses normally accept responsibility for cases residing within reasonable proximity of their homes, but the principle of the expectant mother's free choice of midwife (as of doctor), is well established. Each has a car at her disposal to enable her to respond quickly to urgent calls and to carry apparatus for analgesia.

Mrs. A. Grace, 13 Norcott Drive, Burtonwood
Telephone: Newton-le-Willows 6410

Mrs. F. Stanier, 144 Common Road, Newton-le-Willows
Telephone: Newton-le-Willows 4778

Mrs. Wood, 60 Vista Road, Newton-le-Willows
Telephone: Newton-le-Willows 7847

HEALTH VISITING

A Health Visitor is a State Registered Nurse who has received at least a course of training in midwifery and undertaken a year of special training in preventative medicine (especially early detection of handicaps), health education, and social work. Although in much of her work she is concerned with mothers and children, her duties are by no means confined to these members of the family. In recent years the Health Visitor has worked increasingly with adults, particularly the elderly.

A substantial part of the Health Visitor's time is spent in connection with the school Health Service undertaking the duties of a School Nurse. If a Health Visitor has the aptitude she may undertake teaching of classes in health education and mothercraft subjects which are included in the school curriculum.

Hitherto each Health Visitor has worked in a defined geographical area, but the current trend is to make the Health Visitor's case-load the patients registered with one or more family doctors and to arrange for the Health Visitor to have frequent contact with the doctors.

The Health Visitors employed in this district are based at "The Gables" Clinic, Crow lane West, Newton-le-Willows.

DISTRICT NURSING

An "attachment" scheme is now in operation by which district nursing sisters take their patients according to the medical practice to which they are attached and not according to a geographical district as before. District nurses of the S.E.N. grade and nursing auxiliaries are also employed to work under the supervision of the nursing sisters; in this scheme nursing sisters and general medical practitioners work closely together with full consultation so that the skill of the specially trained nurse can be properly employed.

The names, addresses and telephone numbers of the nursing sisters are:

Miss M. Littler, 69 Oak Avenue, Newton-le-Willows
Telephone: Newton-le-Willows 5646

Mrs. Platt, 8 Irwin Road, Sutton, St. Helens
Telephone: Marshalls Cross, 813972

Mrs. M. J. Harles, 44 Newlands Drive, Lowton
Telephone: Ashton-in-Makerfield 75196

Mrs. Gatley, 12 Troutbeck Grove, Moss Bank, St. Helens
Telephone: St. Helens 29100

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

Facilities are provided both by the County Council and by family doctors for giving protection against smallpox, poliomyelitis, diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, measles, and german measles. Certain other immunisations, e.g. against typhoid fever, may be given by family doctors when required. The B.C.G. injection against tuberculosis is given by the School Health Service and by the staff of Chest Clinics.

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE

The scope of these arrangements is very wide and includes health education, health visiting in the homes including those of persons suffering from tuberculosis, the provision of ancillary nursing equipment, the after-care of patients who have suffered from illness either at home or in hospital, and the provision of convalescent accommodation. It also includes the provision of a chiropody service available to the elderly (aged 65 and over), registered handicapped persons, and expectant mothers.

Further information about all of the foregoing services may be obtained from the Divisional Medical Officer, Divisional Health Office, Winwick (Telephone Warrington 37444).

SOCIAL SERVICES

The Lancashire County Council is the responsible authority, and the day to day administration of the services is in the hands of Divisional Social Services Committee No. 3. The services provided include Social Workers, Home Helps, residential accommodation, and day centres, and they cater mainly for the elderly, the physically handicapped, the mentally disordered, children and the homeless. The County Council's scheme utilises very fully the various voluntary agencies in the provision of facilities such as social clubs, luncheon clubs, and "meals on wheels" for the aged and the handicapped. The Social Services Committee also pays a grant to the District Council in respect of approved tenants of warden-supervised housing.

Enquires regarding the Social Services Department should be made to the Area Officer, Social Services Department, 146-148 Common Road, Newton-le-Willows Telephone No. Newton-le-Willows 7241

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF NEWTON-LE-WILLOWS

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1972

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting for your information and consideration the Annual Report on the environmental health of the Urban District.

Several staff changes took place during the year, which interfered with the continuity and consistency of the Department. Mrs. E. Goldsack Clerk/Typist resigned in August to take up an appointment with the Social Services Department and Mrs. M. Martindale took her place. At the end of the year she resigned, emigrated to New Zealand and was replaced by Mrs. A. Dallas the present Clerk/Typist.

The Pupil Public Health Inspector Mr. J. Gwatkins completed his training in July 1972, qualified and was appointed Additional Public Health Inspector. Unfortunately he left in November to take up a similar appointment with an adjoining Authority. No replacement for the position had been obtained at the year end. Miss M. Golden joined the staff in September as Pupil Public Health Inspector.

In spite of several staff changes a good deal of progress has been made in recent years in slum clearance, food hygiene, improvement grant work and rodent control.

The burden of work on local authorities is increasing and will continue to do so. If the Department is to sustain and extend its activities an adequate establishment of staff must be maintained.

With re-organisation in local Government now certain this will probably be the last report in its present form to be presented on the Departments activities. In consequence I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation of the support and encouragement I have received from the Chairman and Members of the Committee during the short spell I have been at Newton-le-Willows. I also greatly appreciate the co-operation of members of my own staff during the year and for the advice given by Dr. Packer Medical Officer of Health and Officers in other Departments of the Council.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

Mr. C. L. Garside
Chief Public Health Inspector

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT 1960

This Act made provisions for the control of noise and vibration for the purpose of Part III of the Public Health Act 1936.

Several complaints under this heading were received and investigated during the year with the co-operation of the owners of the premises upon which the offending noise emanated, all were satisfactory concluded

HOUSING

QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATES

HOUSING ACT 1969 - PART III - as amended by Housing Finance Act 1972

This legislation introduced a method of converting controlled tenancies into regulated tenancies. With its introduction this new system produced an enormous work load which has to be dealt with as and when it comes into the office. This has had an adverse effect on the routine work of the Department from time to time.

SECTION 60 - HOUSING ACT 1969

(a) number of undertakings accepted	Nil
(b) number of undertakings contravened	Nil
(c) number of closing orders made	Nil
(d) number of closing orders revoked	Nil

HOUSING ACT 1969 - Part III - as amended by the Housing Finance Act 1972

Rent of dwellings in good repair and provided with standard amenities

SECTION 45 QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATES

(a) applications	received	59
(b)	granted	38
(c)	refused	16
(d) appeals (i)	allowed	Nil
(ii)	disallowed	Nil

SECTION 46 CERTIFICATES OF PROVISIONAL APPROVAL

(a) application	received	122
(b)	granted	114
(c)	refused	8

SECTION 54

Number of county court orders made empowering landlords to enter and carry out works. Nil

HOUSING STATISTICS

TABLE 4

	<u>Houses</u>	<u>Flats</u>
1. <u>Number of new dwellings erected during the year</u>		
By the local authority	19	Nil
By other local authorities	Nil	Nil
By other bodies or persons	9	Nil
2. <u>Total number of dwellings owned by any local authority in district at end of year</u>	2,860	
3. <u>Inspections of dwellings during the year</u>		
Total number of dwellings inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	473	
Number of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose	1179	
Number of dwellings in above found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit.	126	
Total number of dwellings existing at end of year, occupied or not, which were unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit and in respect of which:-		
(a) Demolition, Clearance or Closing Orders have been made (at anytime)	119	
(b) Demolition, Clearance or Closing Orders have not yet been made	428	

TABLE 4 Cont/d

4. <u>Houses Demolished</u>	Number	Displaced during year from houses to be demolished or closed	
In or adjoining Clearance Areas:		<u>Persons</u>	<u>Families</u>
(1) Houses unfit for human habitation	4)		
(2) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement etc.	Nil)	82	23
(3) Houses on land acquired under S.43 (2) Housing Act 1957	Nil)		
Not in or adjoining Clearance Areas:			
(4) As a result of formal or informal procedure under S.16 or S.17 (1) Housing Act 1957	7)		
(5) Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health	Nil)	Nil	Nil
(6) Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under Local Acts	Nil)		
(7) Unfit houses included in Unfitness Orders	Nil)		
5. <u>Unfit Houses Closed</u>			
(1) Under S.16 (4), S.17 (1) and S.35 (1), Housing Act 1957, and S. 26 Housing Act 1961	4)		
(2) Under S.17 (3) and S.26 Housing Act 1961	Nil)	7	2
(3) Parts of buildings closed under S.18, Housing Act 1957	Nil)	Nil	Nil

TABLE 4 Cont'd

6. Unfit Houses Made Fit

	Number
(1) By owner after informal action by local authority	53
(2) After formal notice under S.9. and S.16 Housing Act 1957 - (a) by owner	Nil
(b) by local authority	Nil
(3) After formal notice under Public Health Acts	42
(4) After modification or revocation of a clearance order under S.24 Housing Act 1961	Nil
(5) After determination of a demolition order under S.24, Housing Act 1957	Nil

7. Unfit House in Temporary Use (Housing Act 1957)

	Number of Houses	Number of separate dwellings contained in Column (1)
	(1)	(2)
Position at end of year:		
(1) Retained for temporary accommodation -		
(a) Under Section 48	Nil	-
(b) Under Section 17 (2)	Nil	-
(c) Under Section 46	Nil	-
(2) licensed for temporary occupation under S.34 or S.35	Nil	-

8. Purchase of Houses by Agreement

	Number of Houses (1)	Number of occupants of house in Column (1) (2)
Houses in clearance areas other than those included in confirmed orders or compulsory purchase orders	2	7

TABLE 4 Cont'd

9. Housing (Financial Provisions) Act 1958, and Housing Act 1969 - Improvement Grants etc.

Number of dwelling houses or other buildings affected in schemes of:-

	<u>Owner occupied</u>	<u>Others</u>	<u>Local Authority</u>
Action during year:			
Submitted by private individuals to			
local authority	43	153	-
Approved by local authority	43	153	-
Submitted by local authority to Ministry	-	-	52
Finally approved by Ministry	-	-	44
Work completed	17	8	16
Additional separate dwellings included in			
work completed above	-	-	-
Any other action taken under the Act e.g.			
General Improvement Areas. An area of three hundred houses designated but not yet confirmed by the Department of the Environment.			

10. House Purchase and Housing Act 1959 and Housing Acts 1961, 1964 and 1969 - Standard Grants

Action during year:

Number of
dwellings or
other buildings
affected

						<u>Owner occupied</u>	<u>Others</u>
Applications submitted to local authority for							
improvement to (a) full standard	..	..				56	7
(b) reduced standard	..	..				-	-
Total applications approved by local authority for							
improvement to (a) full standard	..	..	..	..		56	7
(b) reduced standard	..	..	..	..		-	-
Work completed	..	..	..	..	..	40	8
Particulars of any action taken relating to							
compulsory improvement of dwellings	..	..	..	..		-	-

11. Housing Act 1969 - Special Grants

Number of dwelling houses or other buildings affected

Action during year:

Owner occupied	Others
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5
6	6
7	7
8	8
9	9
10	10
11	11
12	12
13	13
14	14
15	15
16	16
17	17
18	18
19	19
20	20
21	21
22	22
23	23
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86	86
87	87
88	88
89	89
90	90
91	91
92	92
93	93
94	94
95	95
96	96
97	97
98	98
99	99
100	100

Applications submitted to local authority for		
special grant	-	-
Applications approved by local authority for		
improvement by special grant	-	-
Work completed	-	-

HOUSING CONTD.

Further progress was made during the year in improving housing conditions in the District.

During the year official representations were submitted to the Council in respect of three small clearance areas containing thirty-eight houses.

Clearance Area	Number of Houses
Crow Lane West	6
Brooks Square	8
Legh Street/Bank Street	24
	—
	38
	—

In addition, representations were submitted in respect of four individual unfit houses.

During the year 23 families were re-housed by the corporation from unfit houses in Clearance Areas, and 11 unfit houses were demolished.

Not all the town's old houses can be cleared at once. Repair and Improvement must go hand-in-hand with renewal.

During 1972 the Public Health Inspectors and Technical Staff made 1179 inspections and visits to enforce necessary repairs in privately owned tenanted houses and modernisation of 48 houses was carried out by the owners with the aid of Improvement Grants.

Owners and occupiers of houses in clearance schemes are naturally uncertain as to how they will be affected particularly about arrangements for compensation and re-housing. To alleviate this problem an explanatory booklet was prepared during the year, for distribution to householders.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

On this subject there is nothing fresh to add to comments made in previous Reports. Because of financial restrictions, no actual progress was made during the year in providing the new convenience in the Town centre; but it is hoped there will be something more positive to report in the foreseeable future.

CLEAN AIR

For those who have been looking forward to the establishment of further smoke control areas in the town 1972 was a disappointing year.

The spread of domestic smoke control throughout the country is having its effect on traditional house warming methods. The open fire is losing ground to other forms of heating such as central heating which is certainly more efficient if perhaps less cheery. This trend is in line with the findings of the Parker Morris Committee's report on the design and equipment of houses, submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government way back in 1961. The committee concluded that better heating is the key to design, and it should be recognised that a home without good heating is a house built to the standards of a bygone age.

Recent amendments in the regulations governing the payment of grants in Smoke Control Areas have made it possible for householders to choose more freely, the range of heating appliances using all types of smokeless fuels, and judging from the enquiries we receive many people in this district would take advantage of this opportunity given the chance. It is regretted, however that the resumption of progress under the Clean Air Act was not permitted during the year under review as regards the establishment of further Smoke Control Areas and it is hoped that authority will be given in the near future to remedy the present situation.

No serious difficulties were encountered during the year from industrial chimneys, most industrial furnaces having been modernised or converted to operate smokelessly. Informal smoke observation, however, were made on a number of industrial chimneys particularly those which have produced smoke in excess of the permitted amount, but no formal action was found necessary. Industrialists have learned that smoky chimneys mean inefficiency and waste, when this truth is accepted by the householder our struggle for cleaner air will be easier.

On a number of occasions action was taken to require the abatement of smoke nuisance caused by the burning of rubbish and industrial waste.

TABLE 5 CLEAN AIR ACT 1956

(a) Number of orders submitted to Ministry during year	Nil
(b) Number of orders confirmed by Ministry during year	Nil
(c) Total number of orders in force at end of year	2
(d) Number of houses and other buildings involved in (c)	534

SEWERAGE

The town's sewerage is piped by the Sankey Valley trunk sewer to Warrington where it undergoes purification to an acceptable standard before it is discharged into the River Mersey.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

Almost every house in the town has its own water-closet. There are five pail closets where connection to the sewer for one reason or another is impracticable.

PEST CONTROL

Many visits are made each year to houses, shops and factories by the Department's Rodent Operative to deal with infestations of rats and mice. Poisoning and trapping methods are used. A wide range of other pests was encountered, including rabbits, fleas, bugs, wasps, bees, silverfish, beetles, cockroaches, crickets, flies and even the odd grass snake.

During the year the Department acquired a small van for the use of the Rodent Operative. This will afford greater mobility and ensure that the poisons used in this work can be carried about with a greater degree of safety. Details of inspections and treatments carried out during the year are given on Table 6 opposite.

DEPOSIT OF POISONOUS WASTE ACT 1972

This Act made provisions for more effective control of producers of hazardous and toxic wastes. The Act requires producers of wastes (which are not exempted under the Act) and the operators of tips receiving such wastes to notify Local Authorities and River Authorities of such removals and depositions.

During the early part of the year, one incident of note came to light as a result of National events and publicity concerning dumping of toxic wastes. In early March the Department was notified by the local police that they had in their possession five empty drums which had been found on spare land in the district and which were believed to have contained Sodium Cyanide. Analytical tests confirmed the presence of Sodium Cyanide. Subsequent investigations revealed that the drums had originated from a workshop in the District who use Sodium Cyanide in their chromium plating process as a metal hardener. The Management were interviewed and we were informed that normally all drums that have contained Sodium Cyanide are treated and rendered innocuous before leaving the workshop. Unfortunately however on this occasion a contaminated one slipped through the security system and the firm concerned were told that the need for constant vigilance is always required in view of the serious consequences that could occur if trade waste got into the wrong hands.

As a result of the new legislation, normal precautions have been stepped up and regular checks are made on the rubbish tips and derelict sites throughout the district.

RODENT CONTROL - PROPERTIES OTHER THAN SEWERS - TABLE 6

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949 :-

	<u>TYPE OF PROPERTY</u>	
	Non-agricultural	Agricultural
Number of properties in district	9498	15
Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	446	2
Number of above infested by - rats	270	2
- mice	176	-
Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	12	-
Number of above infested by - rats	8	-
- mice	2	-

SEWER TREATMENT - TABLE 7

Dates of Treatment	Number of Sewer Manholes Treated
5.6.72)	60
6.6.72)	

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

This Act made provisions for the safety, health and welfare of persons employed in shops, offices and railway premises.

At the end of the year there were 181 premises on the Register of Offices, Shops and Railway premises.

General inspections of 65 premises were carried out, 11 accidents to employees in premises covered by the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act were notified during the year, details of which are as follows:-

TABLE 8

<u>CLASS OF PREMISES</u>					
	Offices	Retail shops	Wholesale shops; warehouses	Catering establishments open to public, canteens	Fuel storage depots
Number of registered premises at end of year	32	114	9	16	-
Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year ..	12	34	7	15	-
Number of exemptions at end of the year:-					
Space (S.5 (2) ..	-	-	-	-	-
Temperature (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.9) ..	-	-	-	-	-
Washing facilities (S.10) ..	-	-	-	-	-

PET SHOPS

Before these premises are registered, as they must under the provision of the Pet Animals Act 1951, they are inspected and the co-operation of the R.S.P.C.A. is sought where appropriate. Two pet shops are registered and are well kept.

FACTORIES

The Register of Factories, as required to be kept by the Factories Acts, contains the addresses of 71 factories. All are provided with mechanical power.

Most of the inspection and enforcement work in factories is done by H.M. Factories Inspectorate. During the year, 25 factory visits were made by the Public Health Inspectors.

The prescribed particulars on administration of the Factories Acts, as requested by the Department of Employment and Productivity are given in Table 9.

FACTORIES ACT 1961 TABLE 9

Part 1 of the Act

1. Inspection for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors) during 1972

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Number of Occupiers prosecuted (5)
Factories in which section 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	-	-	-	-
Factories not included in above in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	59	22	2	-
Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	12	3	-	-
TOTAL	71	25	2	-

TABLE 9 CONT'D

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

<u>Particulars</u>	<u>Number of cases in which defects were found</u>				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>	<u>Referred</u>		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2.)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ..	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ..	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	-	1	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	1	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out-work)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	2	2	-	2	-

Part 8 of the Act - OUTWORK

<u>SECTION 133</u>				<u>SECTION 134</u>		
Nature of work	Number of out-workers in August list required by section 133 (1) (c)	Number of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	Number of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	Number of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

SWIMMING BATHS

The town's first swimming bath available for public use was opened in July 1972 at the Selwyn Jones School, Ashton Road, Newton-le-Willows.

The pool which has proved to be extremely popular has a capacity of 90,000 galls and is 25 metres x 12½ metres. Water for the pool is supplied from the town's mains and is subject to a process of continuous filtration and chlorination.

Regular tests are made to ensure a satisfactory residual chlorine content and pH value, and samples of water from the pool are also taken to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination, and were reported to be satisfactory.

During the year under review admissions to the plunge at the end of the year numbered 41,715.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Weekly collections of domestic and trade refuse were maintained throughout most of the year. Some 9000 dustbins are emptied weekly by four teams of collectors. Refuse was disposed of by controlled tipping at Swan Road Tip. Shortage of covering materials and other difficulties have at times prevented ideal conditions being maintained on the tip. One of the most difficult problems of controlled tipping is that of the larger paper and plastic content and the associated problem of preventing paper from being blown from the tipping site onto surrounding fields - close wire mesh screens are provided to combat this but vandals are very active and the fencing is soon torn down.

The domestic dumps, now fully containerised, set up in 1968, continue to be well used and provide a useful service to the community.

Excess refuse from domestic premises continues to be collected on request. This service has again proved to be popular and at times stretches the resources of the refuse collection service. However, this is a very necessary service and greatly assists to keep the district tidy, but there are still far too many instances of dumping on spare ground.

WATER SUPPLY

Every house in the town has a piped supply of mains water supplied by the Makerfield Water Board. The water is derived from underground boreholes in the Newton-le-Willows/Golbourne/Lowton areas. It is considered hard in nature and satisfactory in quality and quantity.

Samples of water are regularly subjected to full bacteriological examination and chemical analysis. Special examinations and analyses are made as circumstances require.

During 1972, 53 samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination. Results showed that the water was of excellent quality; B.Coli being absent in all of the potable water samples tested.

No special action was required to be taken in respect of any form of contamination. From tests made, the water was shown to have no significant plumbo-solvent action.

In 1972, 1770 yards of new water main was laid in the District.

PETROLEUM ACTS AND ORDERS

There were 24 licensed storage premises for petroleum spirit of which 16 were for private use and 8 were for the supply of petrol to the public.

No new installation was made and visits were for the purpose of checking that licensing requirements were being observed.

SCRAP METAL DEALERS ACT 1964

There were 4 persons registered as Scrap Metal Dealers under the provisions of the above Act, in the District at the end of the year.

FOOD HYGIENE

In 1972 the Public Health Inspectors made 417 visits to food premises. These individual general inspections of shops, warehouses, restaurants, include canteens, food warehouses, vehicles and market stalls, as well as visits to examine unsound food, to sample milk and foods, to investigate complaints about food quality, and for general registration purposes.

Regular inspection of premises used for the preparation, handling; storage and sale of food are necessary if hygiene standards are to be maintained and improved, and the aim is to visit all premises at least once a year. Informal action again proved to be the most effective method of bringing about improvement in this field.

During the year the Department instigated legal proceedings against a fish cake manufacturer, under Section 2 Food and Drugs Act 1955. The case was proved and the manufacturer was fined £20 for selling food not of the substance demanded.

In the year under review, the following foodstuffs, after examination at shops, warehouses etc., were found, for various reasons, to be unfit for consumption and were surrendered and destroyed:-

Tinned Foods	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	223 lbs
Meat	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	96 lbs
Frozen Foods	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	234 pkts
Fruit and Vegetables	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	280 cases

TABLE 10 - ADULTERATION OF FOOD - FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955

The Public Analyst for the District is Mr. A. C. Bushnell, F.R.I.C., M.Chem.A. County Offices, Preston.

Thirty-one samples of milk and forty-nine other foods were submitted to the Public Analyst for examination. The classified table following shows the results of the analysis of the samples:-

Cream 2	Yogurt 1	Canned Plums 1
Pork Sausage 4	Butter 2	Canned Tomatoes 1
Beef Sausage 1	Marmalade 1	Buttered Barm Cakes .. 1
Meat & Potato Pie .. 2	Lemon Cheese 1	Cream of Tartar 1
Meat Pie 5	Ground Rice 1	Bicarbonate of Soda .. 1
Cornish Pasty 1	White Pepper 1	Epsom Salts 1
Hamburger 1	Instant Coffee 1	Asprin Tablets 1
Paella 2	Orange Squash 1	Cochineal Colour 1
Cheese 3	Lemon Juice 2	Baked Beans & Sausage .. 1
Salmon 1	Dried Grapefruit .. 1	Beer Pack 1
Tuna Fish 4	Instant Mashed Potato 1	

TABLE 10 CONT'D

Details are given below of those samples on which the County Analyst gave adverse reports:-

<u>Description of sample</u>	<u>Result of analysis</u>	<u>Action taken</u>
Pork sausage	Meat content 72.5 per cent. Contained 110 pert per million sulphite preservative (expressed as sulphur dioxide) without declaration.	Vendor interviewed and cautioned
Cornish pasty	Contained a small portion of hide measuring (4x2x2) millimetres, complete with hair up to 5 millimetres in length. It appeared to be bovine in origin and it weighed 0.015 gramme.	Piemaker cautioned
Baked beans and sausage	Contained a matt of fungus of penicillium type (blotted dry weight 4 grammes) caused by access of spores and air through a cut in the side of the can, probably made with a box opening knife.	Vendor informed and advised about opening cartons
Pork sausage	Meat content 69 per cent. Contained 200 parts per million sulphite preservative (expressed as sulphur dioxide) without declaration.	Vendor interviewed and cautioned.
Tuna steak, canned	Mercury content 0.7 part per million (i.e. between the U.S. and Swedish limits).	Manufacturer notified.
Meat and potato pie	Meat content of pie 5.7 per cent. Recommended minimum 12.5 per cent or should be labelled "Potato and meat pie".	Baker interviewed and cautioned
Buttered barm cakes	Contained no butter	Vendor cautioned.

TABLE 10 CONT'D

Pork sausage	Meat content 73.5 per cent. Contained 165 parts per million sulphite preservative (expressed as sulphur dioxide) without declaration.	Vendor cautioned
Meat and Potato Pie	Meat Content 5.5 per cent. Should contain not less than 12.5 per cent total meat or be labelled "Potatoe and Meat Pie".	Baker interviewed and cautioned
Plums, Canned	Contained a worker bee weighing 0.135 gramme and measuring 14 millimetres in length - it had been cooked.	Complainant and manufacturer notified.
Lager	Label on the pack included among the list of ingredients the term Yeast food which is not a sufficiently specific designation.	Manufacturer notified

FOOD PREMISES IN DISTRICT AT END OF 1972 - TABLE 11

	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
Type of business	Number of Premises	Number of premises fitted to comply with Regulation 16 (Wash-hand basins)	Number of premises to which Regulation 19 applies (sinks)	Number of premises fitted to comply with Regulation 19
Greengrocers and provision dealers ..	65	65	63	63
Greengrocers and fruit- erers (including those selling wet fish, game, etc.)	9	9	9	9
Fishmongers (including those selling poultry, game etc.).. ..	2	1	2	2
Meat shops (butchers, purveyors of cooked and preserved meats, tripe etc.)	15	15	15	15
Bakers and/or confectioners	9	9	9	9
Fried fish shops ..	16	16	16	16
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice-cream etc.	22	22	16	15
Licensed premises, clubs canteens, rest- aurants, cafes, snack bars and similar cater- ing establishments ..	56	56	56	56
Others	5	5	2	3

